

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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their telephone wires. The mortar platoon was composed of ten soldiers and they had three mortars which appeared to be of German make. The artillery platoon had a crew of six men and one officer to man the only Howitzer in operation. [redacted] three other Howitzers [redacted] were held in reserve. All the Howitzers were painted black, had space in front for five soldiers, [redacted] they were SU-76.

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8. Each rifle company had two rifle platoons and one machine gun platoon. The rifle platoons were composed of 16 soldiers armed with "Vintovka" rifles and three "Dikteriov" light machine guns which were manned by crews of three soldiers for each. Five clips with 32 cartridges were issued to each "Dikteriov." The machine gun platoons were composed of 16 soldiers armed with "Vintovka" rifles. Each of these platoons had three Soviet-made "Maksim Shpandau" machine guns with three-soldier crews.

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9. The supply and maintenance platoon [redacted] was composed of soldiers from the different companies of the unit. Transportation facilities of the unit consisted of one German-made ZIS-150 truck which held six persons and one horse-cart for each company.

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#### Officer Strength and Personnel [redacted]

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10. The officer strength of the rifle unit [redacted] was the following:

- a. Unit commander - one Lieutenant Colonel;
- b. Unit political officer - one Major;
- c. Battalion commanders - two Captains;
- d. Battalion political officers - two Majors;
- e. Company commanders - six Senior Lieutenants;
- f. Company political officers - six Lieutenants;
- g. Platoon commanders - 18 Junior Lieutenants and Lieutenants;
- h. Five officers at unit headquarters - duties and rank unknown; and
- i. Doctor of the unit dispensary - one Captain.

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Activity of ReservesPrior August Maneuvers

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12. The reserves [redacted] were formed into separate companies attached to the active military units. They were trained separately from the regular troops which they joined only during meals and exercises outside the barracks. 25X1
13. Soviet "Vintovka" rifles were issued to each reserve the day of arrival at the unit. The reserves were obliged to carry Soviet gas masks and small shovels on all military exercises. They received a two-hour course in the use of the gas mask and every Monday they were obliged to carry their gas masks, even during meals. The first seven days the reserves had courses in Soviet small arms familiarization. The soldiers were trained with the "Vintovka" rifle and the Junior Sergeants with the "Shoagen" PPSH M 1941 submachine gun. No reserves were trained with the "Degtyarev" light machine gun and only the regular troops practiced with live ammunition. Many hours were devoted to the following training on the firing range:
- a. Soldiers shot two cartridges at 100 meter distance from the shoulder and three cartridges at 150 meter distance from the upper part of the body; and
  - b. Junior Sergeants shot nine cartridges at 50 meter distance.
14. There were two hours of political lectures held daily and usually from 0800 to 1000 hours. At the first lecture the reserves were told that they had been called up for the purpose of familiarizing them with new Soviet weapons. The first few lectures covered the subjects of Bulgarian geography, Bulgarian and Soviet chiefs of state, military discipline and military duty, etc. In a special lecture the reserves were warned that they would be severely punished like regular soldiers for spreading rumors of false or anti-Government information. Atomic warfare was the subject of several lectures.
15. The conditions in the barracks were bad and there was a shortage of beds. Each reserve was issued one rucksack with old military clothing. The soldiers had their heads shaven and only the Junior Sergeants and above were allowed to have short-cut hair. Bathing facilities were available every 15 days.
16. The reserves were given no leave in town and they were forbidden any contact with the civilian population. There was a free movie for the reserves every 15 days.

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Military Maneuvers18-25 August 1954

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17. On 18 August 1954 the troops [ ] were warned that they would begin 7-day military maneuvers during the night. At 2000 hours the unit was given the signal to turn-out and commence the maneuvers which they did about 2130 hours.

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18. The unit on maneuvers followed the road in a westerly direction from Krumovgrad toward the village of Zvezdel (N 4128 E 2532). The troops moved in columns of three. After an all night hike, the unit reached Zvezdel and continued to march on the road in a northerly direction. About two kilometers north of Zvezdel the unit rested and ate. Each soldier was issued five blank rifle cartridges and 20 blank cartridges were issued for each light machine gun. There were no blank cartridges available for the "Shpagen" submachine guns.
19. The unit resumed the march in a northerly direction, east of the Zvezdel-Neofit Bozvelievo (N 4132 E 2534) road toward the village of Vanovitsa (N 4133 E 2534/35) which was reached at noon, 19 August 1954. Here the unit found the three artillery guns and one Howitzer belonging to the unit.
20. From Vanovitsa the unit proceeded without rest in a northerly direction and engaged the "enemy" troops at a point just south of the village of Postnik (N 4134 E 2534). The "enemy" troops were unknown military units from Momchilgrad. The first engagement was unsuccessful so it was repeated. The same day the Krumovgrad unit returned southward and bivouacked east of Vanovitsa. During the following six days various and unidentified military units were engaged several times in the area and the Krumovgrad unit continued to move in a southerly direction.
21. During these maneuvers special attention was given to camouflage from ground observation and less from air observation. The troops of the unit used camouflage nets (maskirovachna mreza) which were shaped like ponchos. They were made of green and gray cord which was very strong, about 1.50 meters long, 1.30 meters wide, with a special portion to cover the head. The nets were designed to partially cover a man's back, from the head to the knees, and each net was tightened under the arms and fastened to the belt or rucksack. From a distance of 150 meters these nets were good camouflage.
22. A signalman accompanied the commander of the unit. He signalled with two small flags, one red and one yellow. There were two hand signals used, one for dispersion and one for concentration of the troops. The signal for dispersion was to thrust both arms forward and then move them in a line horizontal to the ground toward either side of the body. The signal for concentration was the reverse of the signal for dispersion. At the signal for dispersion the troops separated to a distance of 30 meters between each soldier. At the signal for concentration the distance between soldiers was 8 to 10 meters.
23. An unknown Soviet Colonel inspecting the maneuvers visited the unit the day preceding the last day of the maneuvers and criticized the placement of the Howitzer which was not concealed sufficiently from ground observation.
24. On 25 August 1954 the unit returned to Zvezdel where the order terminating the maneuvers was received. The unit returned to barracks in Krumovgrad the same afternoon.
25. The food during the maneuvers was insufficient and the troops were hungry most of the time. The diet consisted mainly of beans, potatoes and bread. Meat was served only three times during the maneuvers and then only at night. Because the troops were weakened by hunger the machine gunners needed help from other soldiers to carry the machine guns. The troops were forbidden to enter the nearby towns and therefore supplement their meager ration.

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Training of Reserves After August Maneuvers

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26. The reserves received training in throwing hand-grenades at a 2-meter wide trench 20 meters distant. Soviet F-I hand-grenades were used. The hand-grenade training was more extensive than what it was during 1946-47.
27. Night exercises were held for digging trenches and included both regular and reserve troops. One such exercise was held on the banks of the Arda River near the barracks. Regular shovels were used to dig trenches deep enough to protect a standing man. One company commander told his troops that these exercises were to prepare the troops for atomic warfare. Daily from 1 to 9 September about 20 reserves were detailed to dig trenches north of the Krumovgrad barracks.

28. The daily schedule for the reserves was the following:

0530	Reveille
0530-0545	Dressing
0545-0600	Morning exercises.
0600-0730	Cleaning barracks.
0730-0745	Breakfast
0745-0800	Preparation for daily exercises.
0800-0850	Political Education course.
0850-0900	Rest
0900-0950	Political Education course.
0950-1000	Rest
1000-1050	Personal Weapons and Hand-grenade training.
1050-1100	Rest
1100-1145	Personal Weapons and Hand-grenade training.
1145-1200	Rest
1200-1250	Personal Weapons and Hand-grenade training.
1250-1330	Lunch
1330-1530	Afternoon rest.
1530-1620	Personal Weapons exercises and Physical training.
1620-1630	Rest
1630-1720	Personal Weapons exercises and Physical training.
1720-1730	Rest
1730-1820	Personal Weapons exercises and Physical training.
1820-1900	Cleaning personal weapons.
1900-1930	Dinner
1930-2115	Free time
2115	Barracks check

The Sunday schedule was the following:

0600	Reveille
0730-0745	Breakfast
0745-1300	Cleaning barracks
1300-1330	Lunch
1330	Leave for regular soldiers only. Some of the reserves were taken to the movie theater.
1900-1930	Dinner
1930-2115	Free time
2115	Barracks check

29. After the August maneuvers the reserves became dissatisfied with the resumption of barracks training which they said was not sufficiently extensive. They wanted active military training. They were mixed with the regular troops in the unit formations but separated during the training exercises.
30. The officers told the reserves that after 9 September 1954 they would commence a 20-day military maneuver which would take them as far as Khaskovo and immediately afterward they would be discharged.

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Summer Military Camp near Shiroko Pole, Summer 1954

31. [ ] a summer military camp called Shiroko Pole [ ] was located north of the railroad near the village of Shiroko Pole (N 4138 E 2528) and on the west bank of the small stream at a location (N 4138 E 2529). The camp consisted of 30-40 tents for ten people each and several small brick houses for officers, plus other miscellaneous buildings for kitchens, stores, etc. [ ] 25X1  
[ ] the camp was for an unidentified Rifle unit from Momchilgrad. 25X1

New Trenches near Krumovgrad

32. [ ] trenches [ ] were located about 600 meters from Krumovgrad and northeast of the Krumovgrad-Momchilgrad road. The trenches were dug on the southwestern slope of the hill known as Tschemerika at a location (N 4129 E 2539). These trenches form a zig-zag line running from northeast to southwest. They are about two meters deep, one-half meter wide at the base and their walls are lined with stones, lime and sand. About five machine gun emplacements were built in front of the trenches and these were about .70 meters wide and their walls were lined with brick and cement. 25X1

Air Observation Post near Krumovgrad

33. There is an air observation and listening post located at elevation No. 291 (N 4129 E 2538) known as Mechurka which is northwest of Krumovgrad. The post consists of one small house equipped with a telephone and the post is manned day and night by six soldiers [ ] in Krumovgrad. 25X1  
[ ] the post offered the best opportunity for light duty. 25X1

E C O N O M I CWages and Prices in Perushtitsa, Plovdiv Okoliya

34. A farmer who belonged to the local TKZS and his wife were paid 4,800 Leva by the TKZS of Perushtitsa during the year of 1953. Part of these wages were paid in wheat, grapes, wood, etc.
35. Food prices in Perushtitsa prior to August 1954 were the following:
- a. Bread - 2 Leva per kilogram;
  - b. Vegetable oil - 12 Leva per liter;
  - c. Meat - 13 Leva per kilogram on regular market and 16 Leva on the Black Market;
  - d. Sugar - 10 Leva per kilogram on regular market and 12 Leva on the Black Market;
  - e. Cheese - 12 Leva per kilogram on regular market and 14 Leva on the Black Market; and
  - f. Bacon - 16 Leva per kilogram.
36. Sugar was available in the village shops for only young children and sick persons. Other persons could only obtain sugar in these shops with a permit from the President of the Village Council. Cheese was rarely available for purchase and then only in small quantities. Although large areas of land were planted with pepper, red pepper could only be bought on the Black Market.

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**M I S C E L L A N E O U S**

**Call up of Reserves During Harvest Time**

37. The reserves who were called up in the Plovdiv and Pazardshik area during August and September 1954 were mainly farmers and many of them members of the TKZS. The general complaint among these reserves was that they were called up at the beginning of the harvest season when they were needed most on their farms.

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THE RIFLE SQUAD ON THE ATTACKCommander's Orientation

1. We are located at . . . . . Look in front of us, the brush on the bluish rocks on the opposite hill, direction east; turn around, the large rock and the tree with the pretty foliage, direction west; look on the right, the end of the boundary at the trig point opposite, direction north; turn to the left, the white house on the highway, direction south.

Short Topographical Orientation

Topographical Point No.	71	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
"	"	"	72	.	.	.	.	.	.
"	"	"	73	.	.	.	.	.	.
"	"	"	74	.	.	.	.	.	.

2. The squad receives the order to attack the enemy . . . . .
3. The enemy has occupied for defense . . . . . (the hill in front) . . . . .  
The forward edge of his trenches is marked on the line . . . . .  
  
Established fire capabilities: Objective No. 1, heavy machine guns at . . . . .  
  
Objective No. 2, antitank gun in the area of . . . . .  
  
Mine field and wire entanglements with two (one or three) rows of stakes are marked in the area of . . . . .
4. The terrain in the direction of advance is crossed by the large boundary and gully giving the possibility of hidden approach to the forward position of the enemy and (the surprise) attack on the objective by surprise and in the rear. (Decided according to terrain, covered with bushes, barren, etc.) At that place it will be necessary to camouflage yourselves with . . . . . especially Private IVANOV who will attack over the barren (terrain).
5. I designate your objectives:
  - The light machine gun will advance along the front and from the boundary with the sparse bushes will engage the fire of the light machine gun from Objective No. 1 in frontal attack. After demolishing it, will continue the advance on Objective No. 3.
  - First and third riflemen, with a flanking movement to the left will penetrate through the gully, attack Objective No. 1 from the front and destroy it.
  - The other riflemen will follow in the same manner.

ORDER OF BATTLE

The rifle squad commander during the attack.

Topographical Point No.	71
"	" " 72
"	" " 73

1. The enemy is defending on (left bank of the Burgas Dere)

The first row of his trenches is marked on the line. . . . .  
The second row of trenches on . . . . . His fire points are discovered, Objective No. 1, light machine gun near the bush with the yellow spot.  
Objective No. 2, antitank gun at the corner of the large boundary.  
Mine field and wire entanglements are placed in the area of . . . . .

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2. The objective of the platoon is to attack the enemy in the direction of . . . . . to destroy him in the area of . . . . . after which to continue the advance in the direction of . . . . .
3. The squad to attack the enemy in the direction of . . . . . to destroy the enemy near . . . . . (Objective No. 1) . . . . . after which it is to continue the attack in the direction of . . . . .
4. On the right in the direction of the large tree ( . . . . . the 3rd squad of the 1st platoon is to advance. To the left in the direction of the height the second squad of our platoon is to advance, which simultaneously with us controls the height.
5. Tanks will advance in the direction of the height. The squad will move in back of tank [ ] and defend it against enemy antitank fire and use it (tank) in order to penetrate the enemy defenses.
6. A heavy machine gun squad will advance on the right of the squad (antitank gun, cannon, self propelled) which will support the attack of the squad.
7. The light machine gun will advance in the direction of . . . . . and from the boundary will engage the fire of Objective No. 1. After destruction of same, to continue the attack in the direction of . . . . .
8. First rifleman to advance in the direction of . . . . . and destroy (it) after which he will continue the advance in the direction of . . . . .
9. Second rifleman.
10. Third rifleman.
11. Fourth rifleman.
12. Fifth rifleman.
13. Order for crossing obstacles. At the head will move the light machine gun and carry the fire on the first row of tranches, behind it the other fighters in columns of (one or two). After passing the cleared lane immediately disperse into a linked line.
14. Readiness 5 hours on 13 September.
15. Signals.
16. Company combat supply point is located in the area of . . . . . after which it will move near . . . . . (water mill) . . . . .  
Battalion medical station is located near . . . . .
17. My replacement . . . . .

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RIFLE SQUAD ON THE DEFENSECommander's Orientation

1. We are located at . . . . . Look at the sloe tree on the boundary in front of us . . . . . the cliff on the ridge opposite, direction east; turn around, the large rock and the tree with the well shaped foliage, direction west; look right to the end of the boundary, the trig point opposite, direction north; turn to the left, the white house on the highway, direction south.

Short Topographical Orientation

Topographical Point No.	71	. . . . .
"	"	" 72 . . . . .
"	"	" 73 . . . . .
"	"	" 74 . . . . .

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2. The squad received the task of defending the position from . . . . . (designation of the place) . . . . . to . . . . . and not to allow the penetration of the enemy in the direction of . . . . .
3. The position of the squad is from . . . . . to . . . . . passing along the line . . . . .
4. Convenient well-concealed lanes for enemy advance are apt to be . . . . . which must be well defended. The advance would be more difficult in the direction of . . . . .
5. He designates the positions of the light machine gun and rifleman and having consulted with the commanders of the supplementary weapons (like heavy machine gun, antitank guns and cannon) he designates the most suitable firing positions for them.
6. If there are bushes somewhere, which obstruct vision or fire, he designates how to clear them out without diminishing the camouflage.
7. The position will be dug-in in individual trenches of full height (trenches, etc.) A false front line of defense will be dug on the line . . . . .

## ORDER OF BATTLE

The rifle squad commander on the defense

Topographical Point No.	71
"	" 72
"	" 73
"	" 74

1. The enemy is expected to attack from the direction of . . . . . after . . . . . days.
2. The platoon has taken up a defense position from . . . . . to . . . . . with the task of denying an enemy penetration in the direction of . . . . .
3. The platoon is to organize for defense the position from . . . . . to . . . . . and not to allow penetration by the enemy in the direction of . . . . . Concentration of fire from the right. . . . . from the left . . . . . The area of concentrated fire . . . . . The position to be dug-in in individual trenches of full height (trenches, etc.) up to . . . . . (a time limit is designated)
4. The 3rd squad, 3rd platoon, 4th company is defending on our right. The 2nd squad of our platoon is defending on our left. The tasks of the other firing devices which are adjacent to our squad. Their sections of fire and how to effect coordinated action with (heavy machine guns, cannon, self-propelled artillery, etc.)
5. The light machine gun will take up position in the bushes with primary fire sector defined . . . . . and first reserve position at . . . . . with fire sector . . . . . and second defined position at . . . . . with fire sector . . . . .
6. First rifleman will take position near the bush . . . . . with a primary line of fire in the direction of . . . . . and supplementary directions . . . . . and to deny the advance of the enemy in the direction of . . . . .
7. Second rifleman.
8. Third rifleman.
9. Fourth rifleman.

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10. Fifth rifleman.
11. Readiness . . . . .
12. Signal for antiaircraft defense, antitank defense and antichemical defense and action when these signals are given.
13. I am located at . . . . .
14. Signals . . . . .
15. Company combat supply point is in the area of . . . . . The battalion medical point is in the area of . . . . .
16. My replacement is the first rifleman.

#### Military Terms and Abbreviations

- PVO (Protivo Vuzdushna Otbrana) - Antiaircraft Defense
- PTO (Protivo Tankova Otbrana) - Antitank Defense
- PKhZ (Protivo Khimicheska Zashtita) - Antichemical Defense
- RPBS (Rote Punkt za Boind Snabdyavane) - Company Combat Supply Point
- BMP (Batalionen Meditsinski Punkt) - Battalion Medical Point (Aid Station)
- Polosa - Lines delineating fields of fire on the sides; left and right lines
- T-K-TSI (Tezhki Kartehnitsi) - Heavy Machine guns
- P.T. Pushki (Protivobronevi Pushki or Protivotankovi Pushki) - Antitank guns
- Rubezh - new term for old term "Liniya" (line)
- Otkroena - Outlined, marked as in line of fire, line of attack, etc.
- Oborudva - Work conducted by an individual or unit in defense positions (entrenching)
- SAU (Samokhodna Artileriiska Obstanovka) - Self propelled Artillery Piece; the letter "U" is claimed to be the first letter of the Russian word for "Obstanovka" and has been kept in the Bulgarian. SAU can be used to designate S/P artillery battery or battalion.
- Orientir - A topographical point. Points are designated by pre-emptory numbers in rising sequence and are given in order to points from the nearest to farthest and from right to left. Every commander designates his points. There are regimental, battalion, company and platoon points. Every junior commander must know the points of his immediate superior commander.

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